

# OPPOSE HB 831

EXHIBIT 11  
DATE 3.23.01  
HB 831

## A Bill To Revise Water Use Laws

This bill is labeled as an appropriation bill to escape transmittal in order to pass punitive well rights law.

**Bad News for Montana Farmers, Ranchers, and Landowners.**

1. The bill draft includes:

- (A.) Augmentation or mitigation to acquire water rights.
- (B.) Hydrologic Reports of ground water "to acquire water rights."
- (C.) It will cost thousands of dollars to get a permit and months or years to get a permit.

**It is senseless to create costly and time consuming water well laws before you study the facts. Lets see if any law changes are really needed.**

Lets only support an appropriation bill that creates a study of how much water we have in the State, with all our mountains streams and ground water.

**We use less than 2% of our water supply. We don't need a whole new costly water Bureaucracy!**

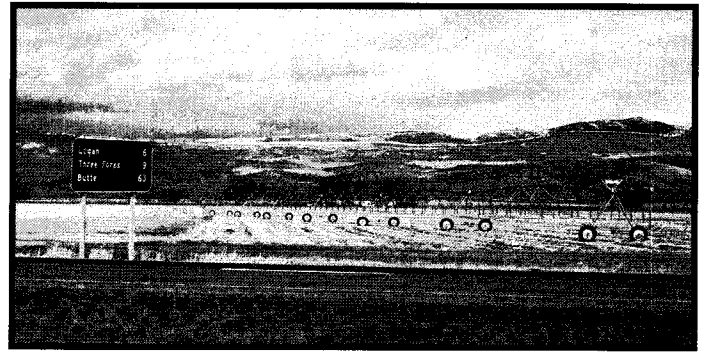
**"IT'S OUR WATER LETS FIGHT TO KEEP IT."**

Thanks,

Clayton Fiscus, Broker, Rancher, Farmer, Homeowner  
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Irrigated residential one acre tracts typical through out Montana will be regulated.



Sprinkler irrigated pasture typically through out Montana.

### **Agricultural use of Sprinkler Systems use 1/5 the Water of Flood Irrigation Leaving more Water in the Ground**

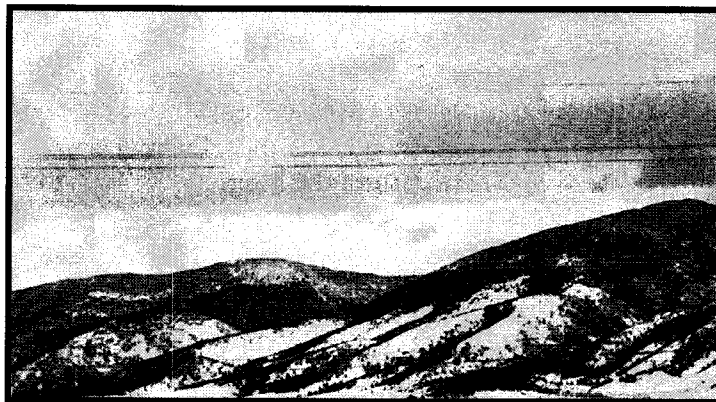
We are already using less water for irrigation with center pivot sprinkling.

**FALSE STATEMENTS-** That Montana rivers, streams and ground water is being depleted and we need to curb the use of wells and sprinkler systems before it is to late.

#### **FACTS-**

**Montana has more surface water and ground water than any other state in the union** except Alaska.

Land with **water is priceless**. Land **without water is useless**. **It is our water first last and always.**



#### **MOUNTAIN RANGES-**

We have **hundreds of miles of mountain ranges** along our border to **fill our streams from Kalispell to Red Lodge and South to Dillon**. We have **mountain ranges** like the **Belts, Judith, Moccasin and Snowies in Central Montana** to name a few that produce year around water supplies. We **draw water from Wyoming, Yellowstone Park and Canada**. We are **not short of water**.